

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AGR-20 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IRN:ALRATTRAY:ML

8/30/73 EXT 20574

APPROVED BY NEA/IRN - JOHN H. ROUSE, JR.

EB/ORF - MR. BOERMER

AGR:EMS - MR. PENCE

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R 302157Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IR

SUBJECT: FY 1974 COMMODITY PROCUREMENT OUTLOOK

REF: STATE 171499

1. RATTRAY CONSULTED WITH USDA OFFICIALS RE IRANIAN COMMODITY PROCUREMENT SITUATION AUGUST 29. OMRAN HAS PLACED ORDERS WITH CARGILL AND DREFUS FOR 700,000 MT HARD RED AND WESTERN WHITE WHEAT, AND ANOTHER 117,000 MT WHEAT PRESENTLY IN PIPELINE. THERE STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT BOTH CARGILL AND DREFUS CAN FULFILL ABOVE EXPORT COMMITMENTS. USDA HAS COME OUT AGAINST EXPORT CONTROLS, AND WHEAT PRICES PRESENTLY DRIFTING DOWNWARD ON CHICAGO COMMODITY MARKET. FINAL DETERMINATION ON EXPORT CONTROLS/LICENSING STILL PENDING.

2. FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION OUTLOOK EXCELLENT. OVER 24,000 MT CORN SHIPPED TO IRAN UNDER CCC CREDIT, AND PROVIDED WEATHER CONDITIONS DURING HARVEST PERIOD SATISFACTORY, THERE SHOULD BE AMPLE STOCKS OF CORN AND BARLEY AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT.

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3. NO DECISION HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY TAKEN RE CONTINUATION

EXPORT CONTROLS ON SOYBEANS/SOYBEAN PRODUCTS. RECORD CROP, HOWEVER, ANTICIPATED. THIS PROMISING PROSPECT COULD BE CHANGED IF SOYBEAN AND OTHER FOOD AND FEED GRAIN HARVESTS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY WEATHER.

4. RICE STOCKS VERY LOW BUT BUMPER CROPS EXPECTED IN ARKANSAS AND CALIFORNIA, AND SITUATION SHOULD EASE IN EARLY 1974. IRANIANS MIGHT KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN PLACING ORDERS FOR THIS COMMODITY.

5. COMMENT: SITUATION DESCRIBED ABOVE BASED ON CURRENT CONDITIONS IN U.S. MARKETS. SHOULD THESE CHANGE, POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON COMMODITY EXPORTS CAN NOT BE EXCLUDED. EMBASSY SHOULD THEREFORE AVOID MAKING DEFINITIVE COMMENTS ON AVAILABILITY OF U.S. COMMODITIES IN COMING CROP YEAR AT THIS TIME. ROGERS

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